REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10, 13 and 16-19 are rejected.

Claims 1, 3-4, 7, 10, 13 and 16-18 are currently amended.

Claims 5 and 19 are hereby canceled.

Thus, claims 1, 3-4, 7, 10, 13 and 16-18 are pending in this patent application.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of the pending claims 1, 3-4, 7, 10, 13 and 16-18 in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for there is insufficient antecedent basis in claims 18-19 for the limitation "A system".

Applicant canceled claim 19, and amended claim 18 is not dependent from claim 16 or claim 17. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 13 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over 3GPP (3GPP TS 33.220 V6.0.0, hereinafter "3GPP") in view of Huotari et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0205212, hereinafter "Huotari").

Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over 3GPP, in view of Huotari and in further view of Faccin (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0033518, hereinafter "Faccin").

With the cancellation of claims 5 and 19, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections with respect to the pending claims 1, 3-4, 7, 10, 13 and 16-18 amended herein.

Independent claim 1, as currently amended, recites "inquiring, by the application server in the visited network, from a proxy in the visited network about user information of the user associated with the B-TID...."

3GPP discloses that the UE supplies Transaction Identifier to the NAF. The NAF requests key material corresponding to the Transaction Identifier. The BSF supplies to NAF the requested key material (3GPP, section 4.5.3 and Figure 5).

In amended claim 1, there is a proxy in addition to the application server in the visited network. The application server in the visited network inquires the user information associated with the B-TID from the proxy in the visited network.

However, in 3GPP, even if the architecture in the Figure 1 is combined with the phrase "the architecture shall not preclude the support of network application function in the visited network" (3GPP, Section 4.3); it is still undisclosed and unclear how the NAF in the visited network would connect with the BSF in the home network. Furthermore, 3GPP is silent as to the proxy in the visited network. 3GPP discloses the BSF and the NAF are located in the same network (3GPP, Section 1 "Scope"). In 3GPP, the NAF requests the key material from the BSF located in the home network via the Zn interface, but does not inquire the key material from the proxy in the visited network.

Furthermore, in an updated version of 3GPP--3GPP TS 33.220 V6.1.0, which was published in June 2004 and which is later than the priority date (April 2, 2004) of the present application, two figures are disclosed. Figure 4.1 shown below is the same as Figure 1 in the 3GPP.
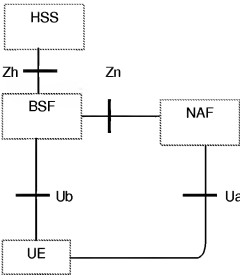
Figure 4.1: Simple network model for bootstrapping

Figure 4.1a of 3GPP TS 33.220 V6.1.0 shown below discloses a simple network model of the entities involved when the NAF is located in the visited network.
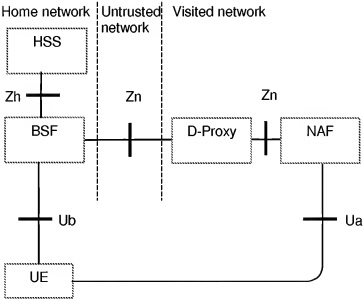

Figure 4.1a: Simple network model for bootstrapping in visited network

By comparing Figure 4.1a in 3GPP TS 33.220 V6.1.0 and Figure 1 in 3GPP, a new network mode, which is different from the 3GPP, is disclosed for bootstrapping in visited

network. 3GPP does not disclose or suggest how the NAF in the visited network could connect with the BSF in home network. 3GPP also not disclose or suggest the Zn-Proxy shown in Figure 4.1a. In contrast, 3GPP TS 33.220 V6.1.0, similar to amended claim 1, includes the proxy in the visited network for connecting to the home network.

Therefore, 3GPP fails to disclose or suggest the application server in the visited network inquiring from a proxy in the visited network about the user information of the user associated with the B-TID.

It is respectfully submitted that Huotari fails to cure these defects. Huotari discloses a method and system of forwarding a service-related information from an IP-based network to a network user. Specifically, Huotari discloses that an application server (AS) 60 is located in a visited network. However, nowhere does Huotari disclose or suggest that the application server in the visited network inquires from a proxy in the visited network about the user information of the user associated with the B-TID. Thus, like 3GPP, Huotari is silent as to the application server in the visited network inquiring from a proxy in the visited network about the user information of the user associated with the B-TID.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of 3GPP with Huotari does not render claim 1 obvious, and that claim 1 should be passed to issue.

Claims 3-4, 7, 10 and 13 depend from claim 1 and add further features to the method recited therein. It is respectfully submitted that the claims 3-4, 7, 10 and 13 are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well for adding other features.

Independent claim 16, as currently amended, recites an application server, in which the application server includes, among other elements, "circuitry configured to inquire from a proxy in the visited network to obtain user information of the user associated with the B-TID…."

As discussed above, both of 3GPP and Huotari are silent as to the application server in the visited network inquiring from a proxy in the visited network about the user information of the user associated with the B-TID. Therefore, for at least the foregoing reason, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of 3GPP with Huotari does not render claim 16 obvious, and that claim 16 should be passed to issue.

Claim 17 depends from and adds further features to claim 16. It is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding other features.

Claim 18, as currently amended, recites a communication system, in which the communication system includes an application server configured to obtain the user information of the user from a proxy in the visited network.

As discussed above, both of 3GPP and Huotari are silent as to the application server in the visited network inquiring from a proxy in the visited network about the user information of the user associated with the B-TID. Therefore, for at least the foregoing reason, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of 3GPP with Huotari does not render claim 18 obvious, and that claim 18 should be passed to issue.

It is respectfully submitted that these rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicant's Attorney, Ira S. Matsil, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

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